



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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Ref: R8

Louis Meeks
212 W. Powerline Rd.
Pavillion, Wyoming 82523

Dear Mr. Meeks:

Thank you for your letter explaining your situation and your request. As your letter explains, EPA Region 8 staff are actively investigating groundwater contamination in your area near Pavillion, Wyoming. We are determined to continue to evaluate domestic wells with contaminants that were identified during the first round of sampling. We are preparing a second round of sampling and analysis with a primary objective of addressing yours and others concerns with using domestic well water for various purposes including ingestion.

The second objective of our next round of sampling is to roughly characterize the sources, nature and extent of any contamination found in groundwater. However, we are also committed to complete a site assessment or an initial determination of potential sources. If necessary, further characterization of a ground water plume may eventually require drilling monitoring wells and additional sampling and analysis. This objective can be very difficult in terms of both time and cost.

Your letter also reveals that some agencies, including EPA, may be hampered as a result not having complete disclosure of chemicals and products that have been used in the Pavillion area to construct and complete gas production wells. As you have pointed out, understanding what has been used for various activities in the area can be very useful in determining the source of contaminants and we are working with the current gas production operator in the Pavillion gas field to determine what chemicals and products they are using now and have used in the past to be able to evaluate the potential for impacts from the gas exploration and production industry.

Please be aware that EPA is not assuming that gas production activities are the only potential source of contamination. We have been and will continue to explore all potential sources of the impacts that have been identified from our first round of sampling.

Finally, EPA is committed to working with all stakeholders that are involved. Members of my staff have informed me that working with you and the citizens on this project has been a rewarding experience. Your understanding and helpfulness to proceed with an investigation that will benefit the residents that are potentially impacted is greatly appreciated and we cannot succeed without your help.

Sincerely,

Carol Rushin
Acting Regional Administrator

